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TUESDAY
FEBRUARY 9, 1954

We had the usual small meeting with the Secretary at nine o'clock this morning. He talked of some of the problems raised during the restricted conference yesterday of the four Foreign Ministers. It is evident that Molotov wishes to keep the German question open and will probably come forward with still another proposal. Up to this time the Western powers have, in public estimation, conducted themselves effectively and to Molotov's disadvantage. However, we all feel the law of diminishing returns will soon set in and if the Ministers can stop wasting each other's time and gracefully conclude their deliberations it will be to the good. Molotov had nothing substantial to offer yesterday on the Indo-China issue. It may be he is not empowered by the Chinese Communist Government to hold out the olive branch to his colleagues. The possibility of his so doing within a few days is not to be discounted, although I doubt any offer beyond the use of good offices to bring about a cessation of hostilities will be made.

I met Monnet at Dr. Conant's house and we all had lunch together. Monnet has talked on the telephone - I hope, guardedly - with Mollet about the short treaty. Mollet was not responsive but they are to meet in a few days and discuss it further. Meanwhile, Bowie, myself and others have talked with Monnet of various factors which must be considered in this connection and he will confine himself for the present to making further explorations in this regard.

Frank Nash had arrived back from Salzburg this morning in John Hughes' airplane and we took off in it about 2:30 for Paris. It was snowing in Berlin but the weather was good as far as Frankfurt. Unfortunately, there was a strike today on the part of the French weather forecasters and it was not until we were 15 or 20 minutes from Orly that we received word the Paris

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airports were blanketed with fog. The only alternatives were Geneva, Chateauroux, and Frankfurt, so we returned to Frankfurt where we boarded a train at 9:45 for Paris.

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